

Treasury Department,

Bureau of the Mint,

Washington, D. C., March 24, 1899.

en. John A. Merritt,  
Third Assistant Postmaster General,-  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Referring to our conversation of yesterday in relation to shipments of gold bullion by registered mail, I would respectfully ask that you consider the feasibility of so modifying your regulations as to grant the following privileges to the Treasury Department:-

1,- That you waive the limit of weight now in force against gold bullion, viz: four pounds. Our own convenience will induce that the weight of our bars be kept down to a size that can be conveniently handled. Bars need not and would not be enclosed in sacks with other mail matter so that no damage to other matter need be anticipated. The weight of gold bullion in proportion to bulk and value is so great that it is not possible for us to use the mails if the bars are restricted in weight to four pounds.

2,- That the mail wagons receive the bars at the Mint or Assay Offices from which shipment is made and deliver them to the institution to which they are addressed. The bars are of such weight that they cannot well be carried by hand from the Assay Office to the Post Office and we have no teams in the Mint service.

-2-

3.- Would it be practicable to have shipments accompanied by special messenger as a precautionary measure?

Our attention has been called to the fact that bankers and other business men are transporting vast sums of money annually by registered mail. The appropriations for transportation for the Bureau of the Mint in the present fiscal year amount to \$70,000. It would seem that if private parties find it advantageous to use the Postal Service for transporting money and treasure, it might be possible for the various departments of the Government to also use it.

The route over which we would first desire to introduce this system is between Seattle and San Francisco, and if the above privileges can be obtained and this policy appears to be advantageous to both the Treasury Department and the Post Office Department, it would probably be extended to cover all shipments between Mints and Assay Offices.

Very truly yours,

*Geo. E. Roberts*  
Director of the Mint.

Treasury Department,  
Bureau of the Mint,  
Washington, D.C.

March 30, 1899.

Hon. John A. Merritt,  
Third Assistant Postmaster General, –  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Referring to our conversation of yesterday in relation to shipments of gold bullion by registered mail, I would respectfully ask that you consider the feasibility of so modifying your regulations as to grant the following privileges to the Treasury Department:

- 1.- That you waive the limit of weight now in force against this class of matter, viz: four pounds. Our own convenience will require that the weight of our bars be kept down to a size that can be conveniently handled. Bars need not and would not be commingled in sacks with other mail matter so that no damage to other matter need be anticipated. The weight of gold bullion in proportion to bulk and value is so great that it is not possible for us to use the mails if the bars are restricted in weight to four pounds.
- 2.- That the mail wagons receive the bars at the Mint or Assay Office from which shipment is made and deliver them to the destination to which they are addressed. The bars are of such weight that they cannot well be carried by hand from the Assay Office to the Post Office and we have no teams in the Mint service.
- 3.- Would it be practicable to have shipments accompanied by special messengers as a precautionary measure?

Our attention has been called to the fact that banks and other business men are transporting vast sums of money annually by registered mail. The appropriations for transportation for the Bureau of the Mint in the present fiscal year amount to \$70,000. It would seem that if private parties find it advantageous to use the Postal Service for transporting money and treasure, it ought to be possible for the various departments of the Government to also use it.

The route over which we would first desire to introduce this system is between Seattle and San Francisco, and if the above privileges can be obtained and this policy appears to be advantageous to both the Treasury Department and the Post Office Department, it would probably be extended to cover all shipments between Mint and Assay Offices.

Very truly yours,  
[Signature] George E. Roberts  
Director of the Mint.